

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 14421 221430Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02 /082 W
 093237 /67

R 221408Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4938
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 14421

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, UG, KE
SUBJECT: UGANDAN OFFICIALS VISIT MOMBASA PORT

1. UGANDAN MINISTER OF POWER AND INDUSTRY COL. DUSMAN
SABUNI VISITED MOMBASA ON DEC. 21, ACCOMPANIED BY UGANDAN
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE UNDER SECRETARY TIMOTHY LOLEM, FOR
AVOWED PURPOSE OF CLEARING LOGJAM IN UGANDA-BOUND CARGO
HELD AT THE PORT. PRESS REPORTS THAT SABUNI CALLED ON
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER MAHIHU AND TOURED PORT. PUBLIC
STATEMENTS BY BOTH UGANDAN AND KENYAN OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED
FRIENDLY RELATIONS, PRACTICAL APPROACH TO "SMALL PROBLEMS
LIKE CLEARING OF GOODS" (SABUNI'S WORDS) AND UGANDAN
INTENTION TO SQUARE ACCOUNTS WITH PORT AUTHORITIES.
HOWEVER, NAIROBI STANDARD QUOTES MOMBASA SOURCES AS
SAYING THAT MONEY OWED BY UGANDA TO THE PORT (AN EAST
AFRICAN COMMUNITY BODY) IS 30 MILLION SHILLINGS,
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RATHER THAN 14 MILLION AS PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT BY UGANDA.

2. ONE OF SABUNI'S MAJOR OBJECTIVES APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN
ACHIEVED--GETTING CLEARANCE FOR 129 FIVE-TON MILITARY
TRUCKS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD AT THE PORT FOR OVER HALF
A YEAR. MFA SOURCE TOLD DCM (AND MOD PERMSEC CONFIRMED)

THAT KENYA HAD AGREED TO RELEAST ALL 129 TRUCKS, WHICH WOULD BE DRIVEN TO UGANDA BORDER BY KENYA DRIVERS. HOWEVER, MOD PERMSEC SAID GOK DOES NOT INTEND TO RELEASE OTHER UNSPECIFIED LETHAL MILITARY ITEMS HELD IN MOMBASA UNTIL IT GETS IRONCLAD ASSURANCES THAT UGANDA NO LONGER HAS HOSTILE DESIGNS ON KENYA.

3. RADIO UGANDA DEC. 21 AND 22 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO SABUNI CHARACTERIZATION OF VISIT AS SUCCESSFUL. IT QUOTED KENYA PC MAHIHU AS SAYING THAT ALL UGANDA GOODS HELD IN MOMBASA HAVE BEEN CLEARED AND THAT "PROCEDURAL PAYMENT WILL BE DONE ACCORDING TO REGULATIONS OF THE PORT." THIS ROSY ACCOUNT IS NOT BORNE OUT BY KENYAN PRESS REPORTS, BUT IT SUGGESTS UGANDAN CONFIDENCE IN ULTIMATE SOLUTION OF FINANCIAL OBSTACLES IN RELATIONS WITH THE PORT.
MARSHALL

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